Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:)
Implementation of Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996)) CC Docket No. 96-128)
Petition for Rulemaking or, in the Alternative, Petition to Address Referral Issues In Pending Rulemaking))))))
)

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to Section 1.46(b) of the Commission's rules,¹ petitioners Martha Wright, *et al.* ("Petitioners") request a three-week extension of time in which to file a reply to the comments opposing the relief sought in Petitioners' Alternative Rulemaking Proposal ("Proposal").² A three-week extension will not prejudice any interested party and will aid in the development of a more complete record upon which to resolve the issues raised by the opposing comments ("Oppositions").

The Commission's *Public Notice* originally invited interested parties to file comments on the Proposal on April 2 and reply comments on April 17, 2007.³ The Commission subsequently

¹ 47 C.F.R. 1.46(b).

² FCC Public Notice, Comment Sought on Alternative Rulemaking Proposal Regarding Issues Related to Inmate Calling Services, CC Docket No. 96-128, DA 07-961 (WCB Mar. 2, 2007) ("Public Notice").

³ *Id*.

granted an extension of those deadlines until May 2 for initial comments and May 23 for reply comments.⁴ The Commission provides additional time to file comments and reply comments in rulemaking proceedings when "good cause exists" for such an extension because it "will facilitate the development of a more accurate and complete record" and thus is in the public interest.⁵ As further explained below, good cause exists and the public interest would be served in this case by providing Petitioners with a modest extension of time to respond to the multiple issues raised in the Oppositions.

The Proposal raises controversial, substantive matters regarding inmate telephone services and long distance inmate service rates. Some of the Oppositions raise cost and other economic issues that will require time-consuming analysis and rebuttal by Petitioners' expert, Douglas A. Dawson, and coordination between Mr. Dawson and counsel. Counsel will also need to consult with public interest groups on whose behalf the Proposal was filed. Such analysis, coordination and consultation will require more time than the 13 days remaining in the revised comment cycle established by the Commission.

The Proposal requests that the Commission address grossly excessive inmate telephone service rates and restrictions on inmate calling options. The significant and controversial public policy and consumer issues arising from such restrictions and exorbitant rates, which are borne largely by low-income relatives and loved ones of prison inmates, should not be resolved without providing a full opportunity for Petitioners to respond to the expert testimony and multiple legal

⁴ Implementation of Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Order, CC Docket No. 96-128, DA 07-1366 (WCB Mar. 21, 2007).

⁵ See, e.g., id. ¶ 3; Verizon Telephone Companies, Petition for Forbearance From the Current Pricing Rules for the Unbundled Network Element Platform, 18 FCC Rcd 14600 (2003) (concluding that good cause exists to extend the date to file comments and reply comments due to the complexity of the issues raised in the proceeding).

and policy arguments in the Oppositions. Furthermore, any delay in the Commission's decision on the Proposal will be vastly outweighed by Petitioners' ability to develop a more complete record in this proceeding, which will assist the Commission in making an informed and appropriate decision.

No other party will be prejudiced by a brief extension of the deadline to file reply comments. The Commission routinely provides parties with additional time to file reply comments in situations where, such as here, the proceeding raises complex and substantive issues, particularly when other parties would not be harmed by the extension.⁶

Accordingly, Petitioners have shown good cause for a brief extension of three weeks, until June 13, 2007, of the due date for their reply to the Oppositions. The issues raised by the Oppositions and the lack of prejudice to any party, as well as the public interest in protecting ratepayer interests, support the requested relief.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Wright, et al.

By: /s/ Deborah M. Golden

Deborah M. Golden D.C. Prisoners' Project Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs 11 Dupont Circle, Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 319-1000 By: /s/ Frank W. Krogh

Doane F. Kiechel Frank W. Krogh Jennifer L. Kostyu Morrison & Foerster, LLP 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Suite 5500 Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 887-1500 (Voice) (202) 887-0763 (Fax)

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⁶ See, e.g., Procedures to Govern the Use of Satellite Earth Stations on Board Vessels in the 5925-6425 MHz/ 3700-4200 MHz Bands and 14.0-14.5 GHz/ 11.7-12.2 GHz Bands, IB Docket No. 02-10, DA No. 04-579 (Mar. 1, 2004) (granting the request for an extension of time to file reply comments because of the complex issues raised in the rulemaking proceeding).

Stephen G. Seliger Laurie S. Elkin Seliger & Elkin, Ltd. 155 North Michigan Avenue Suite 500 Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 616-4244

Dated: May 10, 2007

Rachel Meeropol Center for Constitutional Rights 666 Broadway, 7th Floor New York, NY 10012 (212) 614-6464 x 439

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Theresa Rollins, hereby certify on this 10th day of May, 2007, a copy of the foregoing Motion for Extension of Time has been served via electronic mail (*) or first class mail, postage pre-paid, to the following:

Pamela Arluk*
Acting Assistant Division Chief
Pricing Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Wireline Competition Bureau
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Email: Pam.Arluk@fcc.gov

Best Copy and Printing, Inc.*
Portals II
445 12th Street, S.W., Room CY-B402
Washington, D.C. 20554

Email: FCC@BCPIWEB.COM

Lynne Engledow*
Pricing Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Wireline Competition Bureau
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Email: Lynne.Engledow@fcc.gov

Marcus W. Trathen
David Kushner
Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey
& Leonard, L.L.P.
Wachovia Capitol Center, Suite 1600
150 Fayetteville Street
Post Office Box 1800
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Albert Lewis*
Acting Division Chief
Pricing Policy Division
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Wireline Competition Bureau
445 12th Street, S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20554

Email: Albert.Lewis@fcc.gov

Douglas Galbi*
Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Wireline Competition Bureau
445 12th Street, S.W., Room 5-A221
Washington, D.C. 20554

Email: <u>Douglas.Galbi@fcc.gov</u>

Mark D. Schneider Thomas P. Van Wazer Sidley Austin LLP 1501 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

John B. Adams c/o Consolidated Communications Public Services, Inc. The Adams Legal Firm, LLC 626C Admiral Drive #312 Annapolis, Md 21401 David C. Bartlett
Jeffrey S. Lanning
R. Brian Adkins
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 820
Washington, D.C. 20004

Denise A. Cardman American Bar Association Governmental Affairs Office 740 Fifteenth Street, NW Washington, D.C. 2005

David C. Bergmann Chair, NASUCA Telecommunications Committee Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel 10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800 Columbus, OH 43215-3485

NASUCA 8380 Colesville Road, Suite 101 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Paul Doucette Executive Director Association of Private Correctional and Treatment Organizations 888 16th Street, NW, Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20006

Monique Byrnes, Consultant to Public Communications Services, Inc 11859 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 600 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Michael S. Hamden North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, Inc. 1110 Wake Forest Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27604 Mitchell F. Brecher Greenberg Traurig, LLP 800 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20006

Laura K. Abel Lynn Lu Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law 161 Avenue of the Americas, 12th Floor New York, NY 10013

John D. Rees, Commissioner Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Department of Corrections 275 East Main Street P.O. Box 2400 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602

Charles Sullivan, Executive Director Kay Perry, Chairperson Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants Post Office Box 2310 Washington, D.C. 20013

Matthew A. Brill Vineet R. Shahani Latham & Watkins LLP 555 11th Street, N.W., Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20004-1304

Susan Galbraith Executive Director Our Place, DC 801 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Marc Mauer, Executive Director The Sentencing Project 514 Tenth Street, N.W., Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20004 David Loftis
Barry Scheck
Peter Neufeld
The Innocence Project
100 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor
New York, N.Y. 10011

Elizabeth A. Noël People's Counsel Office of the People's Counsel District of Columbia 1133 15th Street, N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005-2710 Cassie M. Pierson, Staff Attorney Legal Services for Prisoners with Children 1540 Market Street, Suite 490 San Francisco, CA 94102

Glenn B. Manishin Stephanie A. Joyce Kelley Drye & Warren LLP 3050 K Street, N.W., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20007

/s/ Theresa Rollins

Theresa Rollins

dc-486296